

Area-wide Task Force Meeting
January 16, 2003
Associated Lead and Arsenic-Related Activities

What are the various other activities around the state dealing with lead and arsenic soil contamination?

East of the Cascades

Wenatchee School District Lead/Arsenic Cleanup -- Lincoln Elementary: Public Notice and SEPA has been completed for the interim action. The Interim Action at the site includes irrigation system rehabilitation, bark mulch cover, and installation of innovative turf maintenance products. It is anticipated that the interim action will be complete by March 2003, budget permitting.

Ecology assembled informational packets for each school district superintendent. The packets included aerial photos, laboratory reports, and a quick-view spreadsheet with sample number and lab results. The aerial photos contained color-coded sample locations/numbers for easy viewing of hot spots on the school grounds.

Okanogan County: Ecology is working with the Okanogan County Health District to complete sampling at two schools in the county and is working with the North Omak School to develop a cleanup action plan. Funding for this action is provided through the Toxics Cleanup Program's clean sites fund.

Sampling by the Okanogan County Health District has shown that the Omak School District is in need of an interim action to address soils at North Omak Elementary. Ecology met with the school district in early December; and, they are very interested in learning what to do and how best to respond. Parent response to a direct mail letter from the school district was very low key; i.e., parents want to be kept posted, not panicked. Ecology will continue to support the school in their efforts.

Western Washington

ASARCO Everett Smelter, Everett, WA: Aspen Environmental has finished excavating seven of the nine properties and restored most of the excavated areas. Excavation on the eighth house has begun. The University of Washington soils lab will help Ecology staff collect soil samples from yards remediated during prior years to determine why many of the yards are experiencing the same problems - poor growth of landscape plants and lawns. The final details of the interagency agreement for the work are being worked out.

**Tacoma Smelter Plume Area
Seattle & King County**

Child Use Area Study Prioritization List: Ecology, working in cooperation with Seattle-King County Public Health, completed the Child Use Area Study Prioritization List. Approximately 100 sites will be sampled--a total of 250 play areas. A fact sheet announcing the study is available on the TSP webpage or by request. A media "field day" was hosted by Ecology during the first week of January at Saltwater State Park to inform them about the current sampling effort.

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Ecology contacted Parks Department representatives, schools, and child care centers regarding access agreements being mailed, and to inform them of the process for sampling and parks to be sampled.

Information Request: Seattle-King County Public Health requests that Ecology create simple messages and educational materials for child care providers and parents, about sampling, clean soil, and Private Rights of Action. This information is requested to provide citizens with more information regarding liability and property status before the March data release.

TSP-Wide

School Superintendents Meeting: Ecology scheduled a meeting for January 27, with King and Pierce County School Superintendents within the Smelter Plume area. The purpose of the meeting is to review access agreements, bond issues, redevelopment and new schools, remedial action grants, and Brownfields applications. Funding for remedial action is the focus of concern.

Child Health Conference: Ecology submitted a proposal to attend a Child Health conference sponsored by the Environmental Educators Assn. of WA to be held in March. We coordinated with the three health agencies, submitted a proposal, and requested a display booth.

Tacoma & Pierce County

Sampling Data: Ecology encourages TPCHD to move forward with a website release of final data. They will decide whether or not to do a press release. Suggestions given for maps, and (The) response to data release not anticipated to elicit significant response. Release anticipated in mid-January.

Behavioral Change Survey: Ecology is working in coordination with the county to develop and conduct focus groups and a baseline survey to evaluate the effectiveness of information on individual/community protection measures. A follow-up survey will be conducted one year later. The survey will be conducted in two Pierce County communities.

Sampling Study Announcements: Ecology will be contacting School Superintendents and City Government contacts to announce completion of the footprint study and initiation of the child use area study.

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Communications Update

What external contacts has Ecology initiated or received that deal with lead and arsenic soil contamination?

Elected Officials Updates:

- State Representative Dave Upthegrove
Department of Ecology provided an update on the Area-wide Project and the Tacoma Smelter Plume.
- Department of Ecology provided information about current sampling efforts to King County State Senators and Representatives and to affected council members about the Tacoma Smelter Plume sampling activities.
- Pierce County Press release due mid-January regarding the Pierce County Footprint Study. This will coincide with briefings and contacts with local and area state officials regarding the study.

Press Contacts

Area-wide Project: No Press Contacts

Everett Smelter:

- December news release seeking comment on the final cleanup of arsenic-contaminated soil on a portion of the site of the former ASARCO Smelter in Everett. Public comment period ends on January 28, 2003. The associated fact sheet is available on Ecology's webpage.